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PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH
DE RUEHKO #0354 0480236
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 170236Z FEB 09
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0823
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHMMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHMMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 2467
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 4811
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 0293
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 3018
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 6254
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7766
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2713
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3788
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3751
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000354

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OIIP KMDR KPAO JA

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - NORTH KOREA

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Front-page items on Tuesday morning included Secretary of State Clinton's arrival in Tokyo on Monday evening.

¶2. "Prior Notice of Missile Launch a Message to U.S.?"
The moderate Yomiuri's dispatch from Seoul argued (2/17): "North Korea's 'prior notice' of its launch of a ballistic missile is aimed at threatening the Obama administration and strengthening Pyongyang's bargaining power against the U.S. The Obama administration's diplomacy toward North Korea will be tested soon, as the missile could be test-fired as early as later this month... Secretary of State Clinton said during her remarks in New York ahead of her tour of Asia that the U.S. is ready to normalize its relations with North Korea in return for Pyongyang's abandonment of its nuclear programs. North Korea's prior notice is a response to this proposal. The U.S. will likely react strongly if a missile is actually launched. However, North Korea appears to be calculating that the U.S. will have to eventually hold negotiations with Pyongyang."

ZUMWALT